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Letter dated 20 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, the statement delivered on 15 July 2017 by the President of the Presidency of the Council of the Government of National Accord, Faiez Mustafa Serraj, to the Libyan people, which presents an initiative for a road map (see annex).

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elmahdi S. **Elmajerbi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 20 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Statement delivered on 15 July 2017 by the President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord, Faiez Mustafa Serraj, to the Libyan people setting out his proposed initiative

I address you today at a critical juncture in our country's history. I am fully aware of the suffering that citizens have been enduring — not just now, but for the past several decades. I address you at a time when everyone hopes that our country will join the ranks of the developed world and enjoy democracy and true freedom. However, we have been visited by new tragedies over the past six years, and we have concluded that we are responsible for our previous state of affairs. No one is more responsible than anyone else for present state of affairs. All are now equal. We have both erred and been in the right, and now the time has come for us to unite and save our country.

My people, I address you in all honesty and transparency, in order to inform you of the reality of the situation.

It has been more than a year since the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord began working in Tripoli. That period has been marked by political, economic, financial and security crises and challenges, the most obvious of which were the lack of commitment on the part of the bodies arising from the Libyan Political Agreement to fulfilling all of the duties set out in that Agreement and the sharp division within State institutions. Nonetheless, we did all we could to mend the rift and achieve unity. We extended the hand of reconciliation to all.

The Political Agreement was meant to be a transitional measure designed to promote coexistence and establish the conditions under which the conflict and fighting could be brought to an end, and we could transition peacefully into a phase of stability and turn the page on the past. The task of the Presidency Council is to provide leadership through this period and lay the foundations of a democratic, civil State, a State of laws and institutions that provides security and a dignified existence for its citizens. We have stressed to everyone, on more than one occasion, that we are not a party to the conflict. We would like, instead, to be part of the solution. The nation is built with the brawn and intellect of its entire people, without exception.

From the outset, we have been determined to overcome the difficulties facing us and address the crises wracking our country, crises that have been going on for years. You are all aware of the economic and financial difficulties that we have been facing from the beginning, including budget shortfalls, a sharp decline in oil production and the failure of the Central Bank of Libya to adopt immediately effective financial policies, in order to resolve the liquidity crisis and prevent the exchange rate of the Libyan dinar from collapsing. We have done everything that we can at both the local and international levels, so that we can revive the economy and spend on security, health care, education and other services.

From the outset, the Presidency Council has strived assiduously to increase oil production. We have been level-headed, tolerant and far-reaching in our vision. We have not allowed ourselves to be drawn in by the repeated military escalations that have occurred at the ports. Aware of the enormity of the responsibility, we have

strived to avoid conflict and stem violence. Oil is a resource that belongs to all Libyans and is their sole source of livelihood. It was imperative that it should be kept out of the political struggle. Since we began our work in Tripoli nearly a year ago, oil production has jumped from 150,000 barrels per day to nearly 1 million barrels per day. Nonetheless, corruption has now become even greater, as has the number of those who steal public funds. Meanwhile, the members of the House of Representatives and the State Council are utterly incapable of fulfilling their political duties, so that they can set things right and hold accountable those responsible.

Libyans have run out patience. The time has come for us to work together. We may therefore be compelled to take extraordinary measures in order to address the situation.

The security situation is one of the most difficult issues to address. It is clear that numerous armed groups of various configurations and names are present in most cities. Our predecessors did not understand the danger of the proliferation of arms and did not attempt to collect them from the beginning. We are now reaping the fruits of that. Nonetheless, we addressed this problem in a balanced and realistic manner. Despite all challenges, the military and security institutions of the State have begun to make their presence felt. This task requires patience and a comprehensive programme. Our task has been, and continues to be, to stop the shedding of Libyan blood as much as possible, to strive to extricate the country from this predicament with as little loss of life as possible, and to avoid the destruction of the people's institutions and civilian property.

Young people have been integrated into the military and the police and their affiliated security agencies. We have stood up resolutely to those who have chosen the path of anarchy, including those who thought they could undermine security in Tripoli recently. The security and agencies proved that they were capable of providing security to the entire capital, thanks to the bravery of our youth and those who fell in the line of duty, all of whom proved their desire to ensure the security and safety of civilians, regardless of the sacrifice that had to be made. God willing, our policies will succeed.

When we speak of sacrifice, we must never forget our heroes who sacrificed their lives to eradicate terrorism in Sirte, despite the embargo that is in place and the paucity of resources. Our heroes who participated in the Bunyan al-Marsus operation made the ultimate sacrifice for the well-being of the country and in order to stamp out a scourge that has proliferated because of internecine conflict, the struggle over the mirage of power and efforts to take control of State capacities and resources.

In mentioning Sirte, I cannot overlook the sacrifice of our people in Benghazi and other Libyan cities. Whether they are members of the military or others, they are all Libyans. There are no conceptual differences between us when we fight against foreign terrorists who have entered the country. However, we cannot classify every countryman with whom we have differed as a terrorist.

With respect to foreign policy, we have dealt with the countries of the world in a balanced manner. We are not the hostage of foreigners. We have said, and continue to say, to those who meddle in our affairs: hands off Libya! We have made it clear that our request for assistance in revitalizing the country and countering terrorism is not an invitation to interfere and violate our sovereignty. Only when we unite, show respect for and uplift our people and revitalize our country will the world respect us and will we be able to realize sovereignty.

Having gone through all these challenges, and given my perspective on the current political situation and the difficulties that have led us to this political stalemate, and being inspired by a sense of national and moral responsibility to alleviate the suffering of the people, and in view of the inability of the House of Representatives and the State Council to come together in order to find a political comprise that would allow for the amendment of the Political Agreement, I have decided to present you today with my vision and proposal for the forthcoming phase, and to offer a road map that might help us to find a way out of this crisis and find common ground for arriving at a more secure and stable situation that is founded on the constitutional declaration, the Political Agreement and our national principles. It is an initiative that gives opportunity to all and opens the door for everyone to contribute to the building of the Libyan State of the future and to do so with a sense of free national will.

Following are the principles on which this vision and road map are based:

First, the vision and road map underscore the right of citizenship and that all Libyans, men and women, are equal in rights and responsibilities, regardless of their political affiliations or ideological inclinations.

Second, the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord is not a party to the conflict and does not support one side or another. This initiative is meant to complement, not replace, the Libyan Political Agreement and the path of consensus.

Third, no citizen, whether in Libya or abroad, whether supporter or opponent of the Agreement, should be excluded or marginalized. Efforts must begin immediately to return displaced persons and unite everyone in a spirit of true national reconciliation.

Fourth, the principles of the separation of powers and the peaceful transfer of power must be respected, and the military must be subordinate to the civilian executive authority.

Fifth, a comprehensive national defence and security strategy must developed, the branches of the military must be unified, the army and the police and their subsidiary security agencies should be supported and must begin to fulfil their duties, and a national programme must be put in place to collect arms and either demobilize the members of armed groups or integrate them into State institutions within a specific time frame.

Sixth, pubic rights and liberties must be protected and management reform must be pursued as part of the effort to achieve transparency and combat corruption. In addition, decentralization must be implemented in order to ensure the rights of all regions of Libya.

Seventh, transitional justice, redress and amnesty mechanisms must be operationalized, in order to achieve comprehensive national reconciliation.

Eighth, all cultures and social legacies must be respected and the system of quotas and partisanship must be ended.

Ninth, national resources and the economic and financial institutions of the State must be safeguarded, and wealth must be distributed justly among all Libyans.

The proposed road map is as follows:

- Combined presidential and parliamentary elections should be held in March 2018, leading to the election of a new President and a new Parliament. Their term should last three years at most, or until the constitution has been drafted

and put to a referendum. The President should be elected directly by the people.

- The Libyan Political Agreement and the Government of National Accord should remain in place until the elected President has appointed a new Head of Government and the Government has been confirmed by Parliament.
- The presidential and parliamentary elections should be organized, supervised and monitored by the High National Election Commission, acting in coordination with the United Nations and with the assistance of the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the European Union.
- Under the supervision and with the facilitation of the United Nations, the House of Representatives and the State Council should form dialogue committees to engage in societal dialogue among one another and with civil society institutions, with a view to preparing a draft electoral law and a proposed amendment to the Constitution determining the prerogatives of the President and the milestones of the coming phase.
- Under the auspices of the High National Election Commission, the Government of National Accord and the institutions in place across the country should provide the means and create an appropriate climate to make this requirement a success.
- A ceasefire and an end to all acts of hostility should be announced throughout the country, excepting counter-terrorism operations provided for under the Libyan Political Agreement and international instruments.
- The House of Representatives and the State Council should form a joint committee to begin integrating the divided sovereign State institutions.
- The Government of National Accord should provide the necessary services to and meet the needs of people in all regions. All of the institutions in place in the country should undertake to cooperate and ensure that the political conflict is kept separate from the provision of those services. The Central Bank of Libya should undertake promptly to enact policies to tackle the problem of liquidity and stabilize the exchange rate of the Libyan dinar.
- A high council for national reconciliation should be established. It should comprise 100 members to be nominated in accordance with standards and conditions to be determined by a preparatory committee for national reconciliation. The members of the council should be notables and heads of tribes of the cities of Libya, civil society institutions, women and youth. They should be selected in such a manner as to reflect all political and ideological groups; no one should be excluded or marginalized. The council's functions should include organizing the Libyan national reconciliation conference; examining mechanisms for transitional justice, redress and amnesty; establishing committees for inter-city reconciliation; and creating an appropriate climate for social dialogue to make a success of the legislative and presidential elections and the new constitution.

I have just described my vision for finding a way out of the current crisis and bringing Libyans together in a spirit of unity. I am confident that the spirit of patriotism will prevail over narrow self-interest. I call on everyone to make concessions, however painful they may be, to guide our nation to safety.

Allow me to take this opportunity to call on allied and friendly countries, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, the European Union and the United Nations to support this vision, and capitalize on the initiatives that have been put forward thus far in order to introduce the necessary amendments to the

Political Agreement and create an appropriate atmosphere for the democratic process and comprehensive national reconciliation.

Lastly, allow me once again to appeal to the Libyan people and all national stakeholders. Whatever your political allegiances, whatever your intellectual convictions, I urge you to take part with a positive spirit so that we can succeed in giving the nation what it deserves.

I urge our citizens abroad to return safely to our nation. I want to reach out to you and to every Libyan who misses their homeland. Let us turn a new page and look towards a radiant future for generations to come.

To the political actors, let me say this: Libyans' patience is running out. We should let the people decide and determine their own future. Let us make our people happy. Let us come together and bring an end to this division for the sake of Libya. Libya is a homeland for all. Let us walk together towards reconciliation and reconstruction.